



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

www.pmacwa.army.mil



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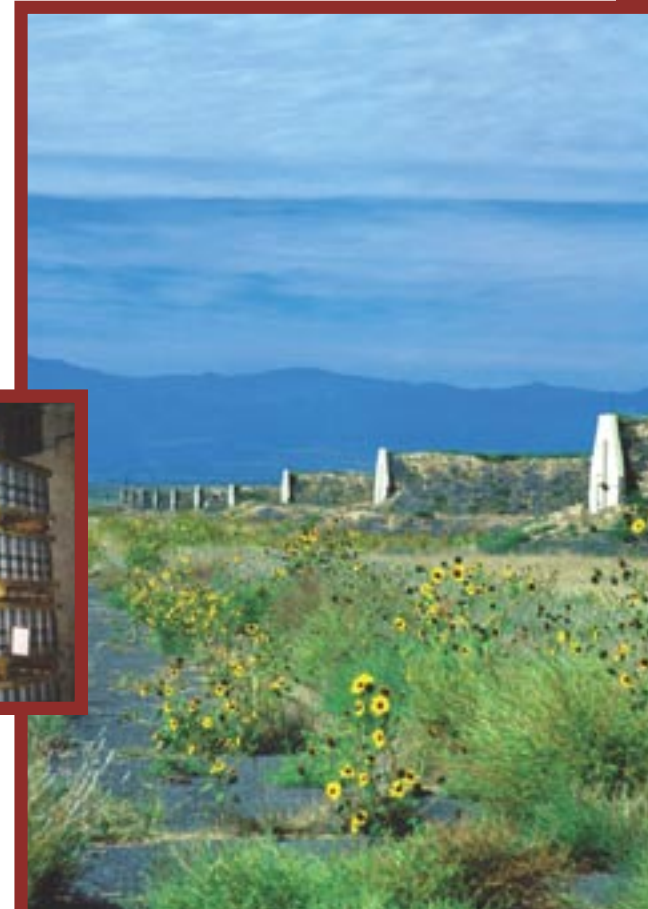
INTRODUCTION TO ACWA

"Our commitment to safe, effective alternatives for chemical weapons destruction, in addition to our support of public involvement, establishes the framework for a partnership for safe chemical weapons destruction."

*—Michael A. Parker,
Program Manager
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives*



The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program, known as ACWA, is responsible for pilot testing alternative technologies to destroy the Army's chemical weapons stored in Colorado and Kentucky. Public participation is the cornerstone of our mission, and we deem worker, public and environmental safety to be our highest priority.



PROGRAM BACKGROUND

“The safety of the people working in our plants, as well as the safety of the people in our neighboring communities is the most important element of the ACWA program.”

*—William J. Pehlivanian,
Deputy Program Manager
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives*



In 1985, Congress directed the Army to destroy its stockpile of chemical weapons and agents that are stored at Army installations across the United States. Chemical weapons include nerve agents (VX and GB) that were designed to impair the nervous system and blister agents (“mustard” and lewisite) that were designed to inflict chemical burns or blister the skin. These weapons were produced to deter other nations from using their chemical weapons against the United States.

In 1997, the United States ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international treaty that directs all member nations to destroy their chemical weapons and production facilities. In addition to the nation’s commitment to this important treaty, these obsolete weapons are deteriorating and must be destroyed.



Destroying chemical weapons and agent is a complex effort. For many years, environmentalists, community members living near the storage sites, scientists, government and regulatory agencies have debated destruction technologies.

In 1996, Congress established the ACWA program within the Department of Defense to study and test technologies other than incineration to safely destroy assembled chemical weapons (e.g., rockets, projectiles, bombs and landmines). The Program Manager ACWA reports to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) for all acquisition matters with oversight conducted by the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Programs).

“Performance-based contracting is set up to allow the systems contractors to take on more ownership of the program and share more responsibility. We expect this to enhance program execution in a positive way all around at the Pueblo and Blue Grass pilot plants.”

*—Joseph J. Novad,
ACWA Program Director*



Over the years, the ACWA program successfully demonstrated several technologies using an active and collaborative public participation process. After examining safety, cost and environmental considerations, neutralization-based technologies were ultimately selected to destroy assembled chemical weapons in Colorado and Kentucky.

Today, the ACWA mission is focused on designing, constructing, testing and operating pilot-test facilities in Colorado and Kentucky. To better reflect our new mission, we dropped the “assessment” from the program’s name and changed it to Assembled Chemical Weapons “Alternatives” in 2003. Still called the ACWA program, public participation remains the cornerstone of our efforts.

Our commitment to public involvement fosters trust, transparency and partnership while facilitating effective and timely accomplishment of program goals. More importantly, we share the global community’s vision to see chemical weapons destroyed safely and will continue to work closely with the community to make this vision a reality.



PROGRAM TIMELINE



- **1986**
Public Law 99-145 designates the U.S. Army as the organization responsible for the destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile
- **1993**
Citizens' Advisory Commissions were created as part of the National Defense Authorization Act
- **1995**
Public Law 103-337 prohibits the transportation of chemical stockpile munitions across state lines



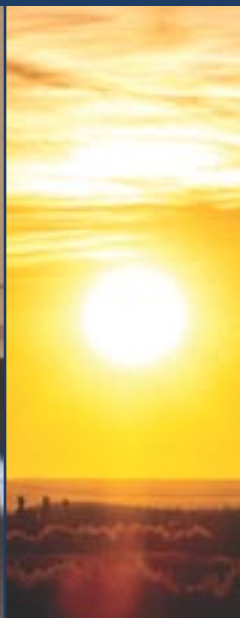
- **September 1996**
Outreach offices open in Kentucky and Colorado communities
- **September 1996**
Public Law 104-208 establishes the ACWA program and provides funding to conduct a pilot program to identify and demonstrate at least two alternatives to incineration for the disposal of assembled chemical weapons
- **December 1996**
Michael A. Parker is appointed ACWA program manager



- **January 1997**
William J. Pehlivanian is appointed ACWA deputy program manager
- **April 1997**
The United States ratifies the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, which directs all member nations to destroy their chemical weapons and production facilities
- **May 1997**
ACWA begins innovative, open public participation process, known as the ACWA Dialogue



- **January 1998**
Public Law 105-261 provides funding for ACWA to continue efforts to identify and demonstrate incineration alternatives



- **August 1999**
Public Law 106-52 dictates that the Secretary of Defense certify demonstration of six incineration alternatives before funds are obligated for a disposal facility at Blue Grass Army Depot
- **October 1999**
Public Law 106-79 authorizes the Department of Defense to evaluate three additional alternative technologies



- **October 2000**
Public Law 106-398 mandates Department of Defense to consider incineration and any demonstrated ACWA technologies for disposal of the Colorado stockpile
- **November 2000**
ACWA successfully demonstrated three additional technologies

- **March 2002**
Final Environmental Impact Statement issued for Colorado
- **May 2002**
Final programmatic Environmental Impact Statement published
- **June 2002**
CAC Working Groups established in Colorado
- **July 2002**
Department of Defense selects neutralization followed by biotreatment as the official disposal method for the Colorado stockpile
- **September 2002**
The Bechtel Pueblo Team is awarded a contract to design, construct, pilot test, operate and close the Pueblo pilot facility
- **October 2002**
Public Law 107-248 assigns ACWA responsibility for destruction of the chemical weapons stored in Kentucky and Colorado if alternative technologies are chosen
- **November 2002**
Department of Defense designates neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation as the agency-preferred alternative to destroy the Kentucky stockpile
- **December 2002**
Final Environmental Impact Statement issued for Kentucky



- **February 2003**
Department of Defense selects neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation as the official destruction method for the Kentucky chemical weapons stockpile
- **June 2003**
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team is awarded contract to design, build and operate the Blue Grass pilot disposal plant
- **October 2003**
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board established in Kentucky

1996

1997

1998

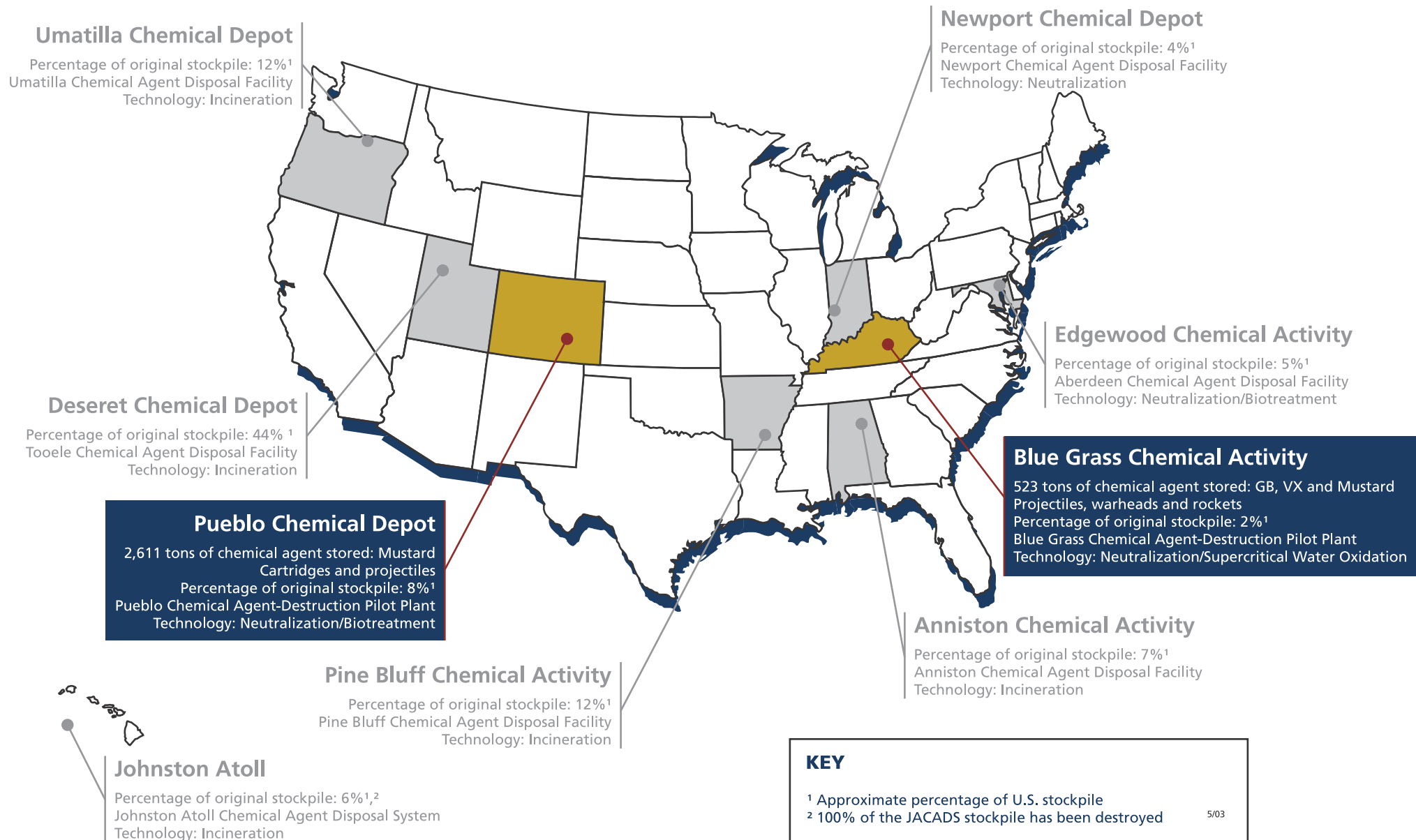
1999

2000

2002

2003

U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT AND MUNITIONS STOCKPILES



COLORADO

"Integration of the community in the project is most important. This integration occurs on many levels and includes a great number of people. My commitment to the community is for open, honest and timely communication through the life of this project."

*—Gary Anderson,
Site Project Manager
ACWA Pueblo*



The Pueblo Chemical Depot, located near Pueblo, Colo., stores a stockpile of chemical weapons comprised of 2,611 tons of mustard agent. We worked in partnership with the community to select the technology known as neutralization followed by biotreatment to destroy the chemical weapons.

Bechtel Pueblo was selected as the systems contractor to design, construct, systemize, pilot test, operate and close the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Continuing our commitment to community partnership, the public plays an active role in program decisions. The Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office, in operation since 1996, serves as a resource of program information.



The Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) is the primary community group that interfaces with ACWA and provides community feedback. Also, a community forum led to the establishment of CAC working groups involving the community in specific matters, such as public involvement, permitting and acceleration options.

"The Bechtel Pueblo Team is committed to partnering with the community on this project. The citizens of Pueblo have a history of strong public involvement, which we will continue to support."

*—Michael J. Lewis,
Project Manager
Bechtel Pueblo*



"We worked with the Citizens' Advisory Commission and the community to provide recommendations for accelerating the destruction of chemical weapons at the depot . . . their input was invaluable and weighed heavily in the decision process."

*—Scott Susman,
Pueblo Team Lead*



KENTUCKY

“The citizens of Kentucky are prepared to begin destruction. We have formed partnerships with residents, local leaders and organizations, all committed to the safe and efficient destruction of these chemical weapons.”

*—Jim Richmond,
Blue Grass Team Lead*



The Blue Grass Army Depot, located near Richmond, Ky., stores a stockpile of chemical weapons comprised of 523 tons of nerve agents GB and VX, and mustard agent. The community worked together with the ACWA program to select neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation, known as SCWO, as the technology to destroy the weapons stored at the depot. Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass was selected as the systems contractor to design, construct, systemize, pilot test, operate and close the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in June 2003.



The ACWA program has several avenues in place to ensure a comprehensive public involvement program. The Kentucky Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC), whose citizen and government members are appointed by the governor, provides a local perspective on program decisions.



In addition, a community forum led to the development of a diverse group of community members that interface with the ACWA program, known as the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board. Members of this board include Kentucky CAC members, Blue Grass Army Depot commanders and approximately 20 other organizations representing a broad range of local interests.

The Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, which opened in 1996, serves as a "one stop" source of information about the destruction program.



CONTACT INFORMATION

"From a company perspective, our team of companies has been involved on each of the eight chemical weapons demilitarization sites presently under contract with the U.S. Army. Because of that we are able to take lessons learned from those projects."

*—Chris Midgett,
Project Manager
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass*



We are committed to continuing our responsiveness to the communities we serve through open dialogue, community forums, active participation in working groups and ongoing informational outreach initiatives. We encourage you to contact us to learn more about the ACWA program or to find out how you can become involved in program decisions.

For general information about the ACWA program:

ACWA Web site
www.pmacwa.army.mil

ACWA Public Affairs
(410) 436-3398

For information about chemical weapons destruction in Colorado:

**Pueblo Chemical Depot
Community Outreach Office**
(719) 546-0400

**Pueblo Chemical Depot
Public Affairs**
(719) 549-4135

**Bechtel Pueblo
Public Involvement**
(719) 543-7155



CONTACT INFORMATION

For information about chemical weapons
destruction in Kentucky:

**Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile
Outreach Office**
(859) 626-8944

Blue Grass Army Depot Public Affairs
(859) 625-6221

Blue Grass Chemical Activity Public Affairs
(859) 625-6897

Bechtel Parsons Public Involvement
(859) 625-1291

For information about the Army's other
chemical weapons destruction programs:

**Chemical Materials Agency (CMA)
Public Affairs**
(800) 488-0648

